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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/721,220	11/22/2000	Husnain Bajwa	1012-0001	9750

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EXAMINER

MEHRA,INDER P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2616

DATE MAILED: 05/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/721,220

Applicant(s)

BAJWA ET AL.

Examiner

Inder P. Mehra

Art Unit

2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/20/06.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 22-24 and 29-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 22-24 and 29-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 November 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 2616

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to amendment filed on 12/20/2005. Claims 1-28 are pending. Out of 1-28 claims, claims 1-21 and 25-28 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 29-35 are newly added. Claims 22-24 and 29-35 are now pending.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 23-35 objected to because of the following informalities:

As recited claim 23,

- receiving at a gateway to the packet-switched network, an information stream including encoded voice-band traffic, the information stream comprising a destination identifier; This limitation is not evident in the specifications. Please quote page and line numbers.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 22-24 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Hakim (US Patent No. 6,614,780), in view of **McConnel et al** (US Patent Application No. 2005/0232222), hereinafter, **McConnell**.

For claims 22-24 and 29, Hakim discloses a method of operating traffic bearing packet switched network, refer to fig. 1, col. 1 lines 6-8, and col. 2 lines 45-50, the method comprising the steps of:

- **As recited by claims 22-24, receiving at a gateway to the packetized network,**(the ITS's provide a gateway service, i.e., the capability to interface between the local telephone network and the Internet 405 (packetized network is Internet , refer to col. 3 lines 58-61), refer to col. 5 lines 27-30); **originated from a voice terminal (401) outside the packet-switched network,** (refer to fig. 4, the Internet 405).
- **As recited by claim 22 and 29, the voice terminal (401) being communicably connected to the gateway (ITS 404) for communication to the gateway of the call** (refer to fig. 4), **the call comprising a call initiation information** (start-up call, col. 5 lines 45-46) **and the call initiation information comprising a call destination identifier originated from the voice terminal, as recited by claim 29,** (user enters destination number, col. 4 lines 45-46, ITS 404 addresses the call to IP address of the destination, col. 5 lines 20-22);
- **As recited by claim 24, receiving at least a portion of the next information stream at the second voice terminal communicably connected to the target device** (410 and 411 connected to ITS's 407 and 414 in fig. 4), **the second voice terminal for the receipt is dictated based on the identifier** (refer to col. 4 lines 45-48),

- **As recited by claim 22, packetizing the call initiation information at the gateway** (packetization of signals to/ from Internet 720, col. 6 lines 37-39);
- **As recited by claims 22-24, directing the packetized call initiation information over the packet-switched network to a centralized authentication service---authenticating a credential (as recited by claim 23---authentication service**, refer to abstract and refer to "route a call---via router devices", col. 4 lines 42-55);
- **As recited by claims 22-23, the re-directing the communicable connection --- and target device** (The ITS-SP answers the call, and prompts the user for an access code to confirm authorization. Once the user is authorized, the user must enter the destination number they wish to connect to. The ITS-SP accesses its database to find the ITS-SP serving the destination number and then proceeds to route the caller's request, refer to col. 4 lines 42-55.
- **As recited by claim 22, wherein the re-directing is based, at least in part, on the packetized call initiation information that corresponds to the call initiation information, including the call destination identifier, from the voice terminal to the gateway** (Hakim discloses "confirmation of authorization, destination number, the originating and terminating ITSPs proceed to route the caller's request, col. 4 lines 44-48;
- **As recited by claims 23-24, receiving at the target device the next information stream via the packet-switched network, (the terminating**

Art Unit: 2616

switch 109 sends the call over---to destination telephone number 113, col. 3 lines 38-40);

Hakim does not disclose explicitly the following limitation, which is disclosed by

McConnell, as follows:

- **As recited by claim 24, authentication the voice terminal via the encoded voice – band traffic**, refer to paragraphs 0044 and 59;
- **As recited by claims 22-24, upon authentication by the authentication service,--- dissociating--- the authentication service** (refer to paragraphs 0013 and 0044, and “AA” server 44 in fig. 1, The server is coupled to gateway and after authentication is provided, server is no longer associated with the transmission of the (dissociating) call).
- **As recited by claims 23, an information stream including encoded voice-band traffic, the information stream comprising a destination identifier, as recited by claim 23,** refer to paragraphs 0059 and 0055 respectively;
- **As recited by claim 24, further receiving at the gateway a next information stream representable by next encoded voice-band traffic, the next information stream originating from the voice terminal communicably connected to the gateway, (refer to paragraph 0044 and 0059).**

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to use the capabilities of **“upon authentication by the authentication service,--- the authentication service, as taught by**

McConnrll. The suggestion to use these capabilities would have been motivated in order to provide capability to make calls from any source through a digital-packet based transport network via authentication by dissociated server (AAA) of McConnell . This provides security and prevents unauthorized users.

For claim 30, Hakim discloses “wherein the telephone number is a PSTN call number and the destination device is a second voice terminal”, refer to col. 4 lines 42-51.

For claim 31, Hakim discloses, “wherein the target device is a second gateway (ITS’s 407 and 414 in fig. 4) , communicably connected to a second voice terminal” (410 and 411 in fig. 4).

For claim 32, Hakim discloses “**wherein the call initiation information comprises a telephone number of the second voice terminal (col. 4 lines 45-46) and the second voice terminal is communicably connected outside the packet-switched network to the second gateway** (410 and 411 connected to ITS’s 407 and 414 respectively outside the packet network 405, refer to fig. 4).

For claim 31, Hakim discloses “**wherein the next information stream includes the destination identifier**”, refer to col. 4 lines 45-46.

For claim 34, Hakim discloses “**communicably connecting a recipient voice terminal to the target device, based on the destination identifier** (410 and 411 connected to ITS’s 407 and 414 respectively outside the packet network 405, refer to fig. 4, and col. 4 lines 50-54, terminating ITS-SP outpulses digits supplied to it).

For claim 35, Hakim discloses **"receiving a voice message at the recipient voice terminal, corresponding to at least a portion of the next information stream"**, (the terminating ITS 414 calls local class-5 switch to complete the connection to the destination telephone 411, refer to fig. 4 and col. 5 lines 4-6) .

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 12/20/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues Hakim does not disclose any centralized authentication feature, because authentication and other operations to connect the gateways (and thus facilitate calls) are performed by the Gateways or in conjunction with the gateways (e.g., the Mapping database function).

Further, applicant argues, "In view of Applicant's amendments, which more distinctly and specifically point out distinguishing features, the cited references alone or in combination do not teach or suggest Frankel, like Hakim, does not disclose any Applicant's claimed inventions.

Applicant's amendments describe that the call received at a first gateway is directed to "centralized authentication service connected to the gateway by the packet-switched network". Thus, the gateway communicates with the authentication service over a packet-switched network, in initiating a connection for a call over the packet-switched network.

If the authentication is successful, the authentication service plays no further part in the call, and communications between the gateway and the authentication service are "dissociated". On this dissociation, the first gateway continues communications over the packet-switched network to the second gateway (i.e., the authentication service is not an intermediary of the

Art Unit: 2616

network communications of the call). Thus, upon completion of authentication, the respective gateways handle the call over the packet-switched network.

In response, it is stated that McConnell discloses “the gateway, that routes data traffic, may query a different control point---such as an authentication, authorization(AAA) --- server, refer to paragraph 0013. Further, McConnell discloses “PDSN 40 (in fig. 1) may further be coupled with an authentication, authorization and accounting (AAA) server (44 in fig. 1) ---, to which the PDSN can refer so as to verify that a given subscriber is authorized to communicate data over the packet network, refer paragraph 0044.

Applicant's amendments more specifically and distinctly point out that any voice terminal initiating a call merely communicates with a first gateway (as in the manner of either PSTN or VOIP call), then the first gateway communicates over the packet-switched network to the centralized platform feature that provides the authentication service. The “directing” in Applicant's amended claims more clearly is identified as occurring, initially, between the authentication service and the gateway, and only thereafter between the first and second gateways without the authentication service intermediating. The communications between first and second gateways in the actual voice call (i.e., after authentication, in the case of the focus of the claims in the application) are then direct, through network routes not including the centralized platform/authentication service.

In response, it is stated that Hakim and McConnell disclose the function of “gateway seeking authentication from server. McConnell discloses the “gateway, which is coupled with server directly, gets subscriber authoitized by server AAA, before communicating the data over the packet network (directing the call).

Art Unit: 2616

In view of above explanation, arguments by applicant are not persuasive.

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action..

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Inder P. Mehra whose telephone number is 571-272-3170. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8AM to 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Seema Rao can be reached on 571-272-3174. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2616

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Inder Pal Mehra 4/26/06
Inder P Mehra
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Art Unit 2616

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